

Public Water System Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board

Minutes of the February 20, 2025 Meeting

A regular meeting of the PWS-TAC Board was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Fillmann at 9:00 AM. This was the first regularly scheduled meeting of 2025.

The following Board members were present:

Amy Batdorf, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Dennis Beck, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD)
Jeff Bickel, State Board for Certification of Sewage Treatment Plant & Waterworks Operators (SBCSTPWWO)
Chip Bilger, Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP)
John Brady, Rural Utilities Service/Rural Development (RUS)
Doug Crawshaw, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Amy Forsha, RCAP Solutions, Inc (RCAP)
Roger Hadsall, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
JT Hand, National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)
Clint McKinley, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
James Steele, Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA)

The following Alternate members were present:

Matthew Buck, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Ed Chescattie, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Nicholas DeMarco, Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA)
Laura Dimino, Center for Rural Pennsylvania (CRP)
Sharon Fillmann, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Patrick Fromm, Rural Utilities Service/Rural Development (RUS)
Mary Gaiski, Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association (PMHA)
Joel Jordan, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
Matt Lamb, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Larry Miller, Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA)
Emme Reiser, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors (PAR)
Mary Roland, State Board for Certification of Sewage Treatment Plant & Waterworks Operators (SBCSTPWWO)
Tesra Schlupp, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PIIA)
Matt Walborn, Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP)

The following Organizations were not represented:

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
Department Community and Economic Development (DCED)
League of Women Voters, Pennsylvania (LWVPa)
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS)

Members/alternates from 18 organizations were present; therefore, a quorum was achieved.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff attending the meeting:

Jeff Allgyer, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Angi Anderson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Jill Anderson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Janelle Barry, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Lisa Beatty, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Melissa Crow, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Dave Grube, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Sabrina Haydt, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Mike Hess, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Dawn Hissner, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Wendy Lloyd, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Doug Macik, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Bill McNamara, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Kim Snook, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Andy Zadzilko, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Brian Chalfant, Policy Office
 Leda Lacomba, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel

Non-Members attending the meeting:

Matthew Bittner, PRWA
 Amy Borden, Capital Region Water
 John Bright, RCAP Solutions
 Jennifer Case, PMAA
 Glenn Cowles, PRWA
 Sara Crawshaw, Borough of Carlisle/PAAEL
 Kristy Donaldson, Municipal of Buffalo Twp.
 Evan Franzese, Democratic Exec Dir for House
 Environment & Natural Resources Committee
 Wendy Malehorn, PRWA
 Anita Martin, Chester Water/PAAEL

Frank Medora, Suburban Labs
 Heidi Palmer, North Penn Water
 Erik Ross, Milliron & Goodman
 Madison Slemmer, North Penn Water
 Christine Swailes, Veolia Water
 Chris Valore, Circuit Rider
 Kodi Webb, Veolia Water
 Patti-Kay Wisniewski, EPA Region 3
 Linda O., private citizen
 Katherine, private citizen
 Scott Rider, private citizen

General Advisory Board business

- The draft minutes from August 14, 2024, PWS-TAC Board meeting were presented for discussion. JT Hand (NAWC) made a motion to approve the August 14, 2024 minutes as presented. Mary Gaiski (PMHA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous “Yay” vote.
- Selection of Vice-Chair: A motion was made by JT Hand (NAWC) & 2nd by Doug Crawshaw (AWWA) to close nominations for Vice-Chair. The motion passed by a unanimous “Yay” vote. Motion carried.
- Chip Bilger (WWOAP) was unanimously approved as Vice Chair for the remaining term.
- The May 15th meeting date will be rescheduled because it conflicts with the PA-AWWA annual conference.

New Business

Mary Roland (SBCSTPWWO) noted that every Pa Operator Certification Board for Water and Wastewater System Operators meeting includes a standing agenda item for two key topics of discussion:

1. Cyber Security - You can visit the updated webpage to review the Cyber Security Preparedness Message.
2. Water and Wastewater Operator Recruitment - The water and wastewater industry is essential for public health and environmental sustainability. However, it continues to face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining skilled operators.

Mary suggested that these topics be added to future agendas of the PWS-TAC Board. The goal would be to bring together key stakeholders to explore effective strategies for attracting and retaining talent while ensuring

efforts are coordinated and not duplicated. Although a motion and formal vote was not taken, the members present at this meeting agreed that this should be added to future agendas.

Presentation: Chapter 109 Revisions for PFAS and CCR Rules

DEP provided an overview presentation and walkthrough of the draft Annex A language of PFAS and CCR Rule Revisions. The PWS-TAC Board had the following comments:

- Clarify the process for permitting new PFAS treatment
- Recommendation that DEP ensure accurate notification to water systems for lead action level exceedances.
- Clarification on the CCR biannual delivery requirements and the due date for the certification of delivery.
- Clarification that consecutive systems should follow the requirements for the population of their system for CCR delivery requirements.
- Clarification that systems must report valid verified results for PFAS.
- Clarification on PA and EPA approved methods for PFAS.
- Clarification on the process to address EPA and implementation of federal rules.
- Request for clarification on the portions of the federal rule that are incorporated by reference (MCLGs, MCLs (& HI), PN/CCR content & health effects language).

Public Comment

A question was asked about the status of the PFAS lawsuit; the PWS-TAC members suggested that anyone interested should check the AWWA website for details on the petition.

Discussion & Comment: DRAFT Proposed Annex A for PFAS and CCR Rules

The PWS-TAC Board approved the following comments on the draft Annex A language:

- The PWS-TAC Board should make comments on the proposed rule as written and presented; at the end of these comments, PWS-TAC Board should comment on how DEP should respond if there are any changes at the federal level.
 - The motion was made by Nicholas DeMarco (OCA) and 2nd by Amy Forsha (RCAP)
 - Vote: DEP abstained, remaining 16 votes were all “Yay.” Motion carried.
- The definition of HBWC should be changed to delete the phrase “or anticipated.”
 - The motion was made by JT Hand (NAWC) and 2nd by Chip Bilger (WWOAP).
 - Vote: DEP & OCA abstained; RCAP voted “Nay,” remaining 14 votes were “Yay.” Motion carried.
- Keep the compliance dates as presented in the proposed rule to match the dates in the federal rule.
 - The motion was made by Jeff Bickel (Op Cert) and 2nd by Chip Bilger (WWOAP).
 - Vote: Unanimous “Yay” vote. Motion carried.
- Change the word “additional” in the header for § 109.301(17) to “revised.”
 - The motion was made by Doug Crashaw (AWWA) and 2nd by Nicholas DeMarco (OCA).
 - The motion was never called to a vote. Motion failed.
- Remove the heading from paragraph § 109.301(17), but if a header is required, change the word “additional” to “revised.”
 - The motion was made by JT Hand (NAWC) and 2nd by Nicholas DeMarco (OCA).

- Vote: Unanimous “Yay” vote. Motion carried.
- Modify the text in § 109.701(a)(4)(ii) to replace “learns” with “becomes aware” so that the language reads “For Tier 1 public notices for a lead action level exceedance, public water systems must provide a copy of the Tier 1 public notice to the Administrator and the Department as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after the public water system becomes aware of the violation or exceedance.”
 - The motion was made by JT Hand (NAWC) and 2nd by Chip Bilger (WWOAP).
 - Vote: DEP, OCA & CRP abstained; remaining 14 votes were “Yay.” Motion carried.
- Should the Federal Courts, Administration, or EPA vacate the PFAS rule in whole, the PWS-TAC Board encourages the Department to not move forward with this new federal PFAS rule and to maintain the Commonwealth's MCLs for PFOS and PFOA.
Should the Federal Courts, Administration, or EPA modify or vacate any portion of the PFAS rule, including the dates, MCLs, trigger levels, or hazard indices, the PWS-TAC Board encourages the Department (PADEP) to follow suit.
 - Motion made by Doug Crawshaw (AWWA) and 2nd by Larry Miller (PBA).
 - Vote: 6 abstentions (DEP, OCA, PUC, PennVest, CRP, RUS) and 11 “Yay” votes. Motion carried.
- PWS-TAC Board supports DEP moving forward with this proposed regulation and incorporating the PWS-TAC comments.
 - The motion was made by Jeff Bickel & 2nd by Tesra Schlupp (PIIA).
 - The motion was not called to a vote. Motion failed.

Adjourn

Chip Bilger (WWOAP) made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.